

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Dominican Republic
Program Title:	Consolidating Democracy and Improving Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	517-009
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$2,000,000 DA; \$3,500,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$3,400,000 DA; \$3,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2002
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2007

Summary: USAID's program to strengthen democracy, justice sector institutions, governance and accountability supports a more representative and effective electoral system with greater civil society participation; a more democratic political system with effective civil society involvement; a strengthened rule of law and respect for human rights; and enhanced public sector anti-corruption systems.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Support civil society organizations to reform the electoral system (\$1,500,000 DA). USAID will support respected civil society organizations to promote more issue-oriented campaigns; sustain civil society initiatives to implement public information; provide education programs to enhance voter understanding and participation in the 2004 election; and enhance civil society capacity to improve and monitor the administration of the 2004 elections. The principal grantee is Participación Ciudadana.

Implement a More Representative Political System Through Increased Participation (\$500,000 DA). USAID will assist civil society efforts to achieve greater female participation in the electoral process and in governance. USAID will also sponsor civil society initiatives to reform political parties, including reform of legal and regulatory frameworks and leadership selection processes. The program will support activities that promote the creation and/or strengthening of municipal and national coalitions of citizens that will monitor the behavior of elected officials and promote educational programs that contribute to the formation of a more representative and accountable political leadership. The principal grantee is Participación Ciudadana.

Strengthen justice system personnel and institutions (\$2,500,000 ESF). USAID will provide technical assistance for justice system institutional strengthening (tribunals, prosecutor offices and public defenders), as well as training for judges, prosecutors and public defense lawyers. In addition, USAID will assist the Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR) to prepare for the implementation of the recently enacted Criminal Procedures Code. USAID will help the national school for judges introduce new courses and help the national school for prosecutors to begin operations. In partnership with the private sector, USAID will help the Supreme Court establish a new alternative dispute resolution system. The program will provide technical assistance to assist the Supreme Court to apply improved court management procedures outside the capital city and implement improved administrative systems in accordance with the civil service law for administrative staff of the judiciary. USAID will support civil society advocacy for new civil and commercial procedures, and for public access to information. Management Sciences for Development (MSD), FINJUS, and Participación Ciudadana are the principal grantees. Competition for new contracts and grants will be held in the third quarter of FY 2003.

Promote improved public sector anti-corruption systems (\$1,000,000 ESF): USAID will provide technical assistance to justice sector institutions and civil society NGOs that are jointly refining plans for implementing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Plan. USAID will also provide technical

assistance, training and logistical support to the Attorney General's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office and the Controller General. In addition, USAID will support a coalition of civil society organizations to stand up against corruption. Casals and Associates is the prime contractor. New contracts and grants will be awarded through a competitive process in the third quarter of FY 2003.

FY 2004 Program:

Support civil society organizations to reform the electoral system (\$600,000 DA). USAID plans to support Dominican civil society organizations in programs to foster debate on electoral reforms, more democratic candidate selection, and advocate for campaigns based on issues. USAID may also expand programs to educate the Dominican electorate and increase participation in the electoral process.

Implement a more representative political system through increased participation (\$1,500,000 DA). USAID intends to support constitutional and political reform with ample civil society participation. This would enable the development of and debate on a draft political party law and dissemination of public information programs to enhance political reform. USAID also plans to support organized civil society advocacy and public information programs to increase representativeness, efficiency and accountability of political parties and their leaders to the Dominican electorate and to foster changes in the public mindset regarding the respective roles of political parties and government. USAID also plans to support civil society advocacy programs to achieve an equal gender representation in elected positions.

Strengthen justice system personnel and institutions (\$2,000,000 ESF, \$1,300,000 DA). To insure the successful implementation of the new Criminal Procedures Code and to enhance professional capacity, USAID plans to provide training to judges, prosecutors and public defenders. USAID technical assistance would also continue improving the organizational effectiveness of the Attorney General's Office, the Judiciary and the Public Defenders. USAID intends to help the Judicial School begin training on civil and commercial law. USAID will also contribute, along with other donors, to strengthening the Public Ministry (responsible for investigation and prosecution) by expanding course offerings at the Public Ministry School. USAID may support further development of alternative dispute resolution systems, and continued strengthening of court management procedures and administrative systems. USAID plans to support government and civil society to assess, analyze and debate the draft career law for prosecutors and other rule of law and justice sector reforms that would provide the basis, not only for strengthened democracy and improved governance, but also sustained economic growth and increased economic opportunities for the poor. USAID support to local NGOs would educate citizens on how to gain better access to justice and advocate for adherence to Constitutional norms and enhanced respect for rule of law. Contractor(s)/grantee(s) are to be determined.

Promote improved public sector anti-corruption systems (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID will provide technical assistance to government institutions and civil society NGOs implementing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Plan, as well as finance grants to local civil society/good governance advocacy organizations that foster anti-corruption initiatives in both the public and private sector. USAID would continue technical assistance, training and logistical support to the Attorney General's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office and the Controller General. Contractor(s)/grantee(s) are to be determined.

Performance and Results: This program was initiated in September 2002 and does not yet have results.

By the successful completion of this program, Dominican civil society will have fostered debate on electoral reform, candidate selection procedures, and issues-oriented campaigns; the electorate will have a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities, and their participation in the electoral process will have increased and become more effective; civil society will hold political parties, government institutions, and officials more accountable for and responsive to public needs; the judicial system (including the Courts, Attorney General and Public Defenders Office) will operate more efficiently, and delays will be reduced; there will be increased access to justice for the disenfranchised; and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy will have been implemented.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Dominican Republic

517-009 Consolidating Democracy and Improving Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	0	0
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	2,800	2,000
Expenditures	0	0
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	2,800	2,000
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	2,800	2,000
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	2,000	3,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	2,000	3,500
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	3,400	3,000
Future Obligations	3,200	11,000
Est. Total Cost	11,400	19,500